

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and the remarks made herein.

Claims 1-6 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1-3 have been amended.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Office Action states that term "terminals" is not clear.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with, and explicitly traverses, the reason for rejecting the claims. However, in the interest of advancing the prosecution of this matter, applicant has amended claim 1 to provide reference numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 to more clearly present the term "terminals." No new matter has been presented. Support for the amendment may be found in at least in Figure 1.

In response to the remarks made on page 2 in explaining the rejection of the term "terminals", applicant respectfully submits that adequate support exists in the specification with regard to this term. Figure 1 clearly shows PRC containing terminals 1, 2, 3 and 4 and accepting inputs from ICN. Page 4, line 4-5 further state "[t]he data processing circuit [PRC] processes the data applied to the terminals [1-4] in order to obtain an output data item." Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that there is adequate support in the specification for the representation of the term "terminals" and for one skilled in the art to practice the invention claimed.

Having amended claim 1 and for the remarks made herein, applicant believes that the reason for the rejection has been overcome and can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Gratacap (USP no. 6,195,368).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with, and explicitly traverses, the reason for rejecting the claims. Applicant would further thank the examiner for his reply to the applicant's remarks made in response to the rejection made in the prior Office Action. In the interest of advancing the prosecution of this matter, applicant has elected to amend the independent claims to recite that that when an invalid data item is found, it is replaced

with a valid data item selected from the group of data. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendment may be found in Figure 1, which illustrates the replace of an invalid data item with a valid data item selected from the group. For example, BCD(i+1) and BCD (I+2) contain invalid data item E as indicated by SCD (i+1) and SCD (I+2), respectively, and are replaced by a valid item selected from the data group.

As applicant stated in the Response made to the prior Office Action, Gratacap describes a method and system for remultiplexing program bearing data. Gratacap discloses using status bits to indicate different states of a descriptor as to whether or not the descriptor is valid, or invalid pointing to an error-ed packet. (see col. 17, lines 23-25). Gratacap further discloses that the status bits are used to determine "whether or not the descriptor has been fetched from the host memory ... and whether or not the descriptor has completed processing." (see col. 17, lines 39-41).

Gratacap discloses using a PID pointer to determine whether a transport packet is to the output. Gratacap further discloses that the packets are discarded when they are not to be outputted. Discarding of transport packets is repeated throughout the teachings of Gratacap. For, example, see col. 20, lines 52-55, which state, in part, "[a]s the name suggest, the processor simply discards the transport packet." (emphasis added). See also, col. 23, lines 54-56, which state in part, "[a]ccording to this process, the process 160 simply skips the transport packet and descriptor therefore. The examined descriptor is not counted as one of the j transport packets to be output." (emphasis added). See also col. 26, lines 2-5, which state, in part, "selectively discards each transport packet having a PID indicating that the transport packet is not to be retained." And, see col. 28, lines 1-6, which state "[a]s noted above, if the transport packet corresponding to a descriptor in a queue examined by the processor 160 is not to be outputted ... the PID of this transport packet will index a transmit PID handler subroutine ... that does nothing." (emphasis added).

In reply to the remarks made on in the last full paragraph of page 3 of the instant Office Action, applicant submits that Gratacap cannot be said to "appl[y] a valid data item instead of an invalid data item," as Gratacap specifically recites that "(4) Transport packet discarding: As the name suggest, the processor 160 simply discards the transport

packet. To this end, the processor 160 deallocates the descriptor pointing to the discarded transport packet.” (see col. 20, lines 52-55). Gratacap further describes that in the process of discarding packets each remaining packet is moved to the immediately preceding descriptor. Thus, storage space is created in the receipt queue. (see col. 20, lines 55-65). In another aspect, Gratacap discloses that when a “transport packet corresponding to a descriptor is not to be outputted ... this transport packet will index a transmit PID handler ... that does nothing.” (see col. 28, lines 1-6).

Hence, Gratacap teaches discarding an invalid data item rather than applying a valid one instead of an invalid one as recited in the claims. Even if it could be assumed that the discarded data item was replaced, Gratacap would still does not disclose that the assumed valid data item is selected from the group of data, as is recited in the claims.

Accordingly, Gratacap cannot be said to anticipate the present invention because Gratacap fails to disclose the claim element "applying a valid data item" and further fails to disclose that the claim element "applying a valid date item selected from the group of data when the data is indicated to be invalid," as is stated in the claim.

Having shown that Gratacap fails to disclose each and every element recited in the claim, applicant submits that the reason for the rejection of the claim has been overcome and the rejection can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

With regard to claims 2 and 3, these claims were rejected citing the same reference used in rejecting claim 1. Claims 2 and 3 recited a method and a program, respectively, which include subject matter recited in claim 1. Thus, the applicant's remarks made in response to the examiner's rejection of claim 1 are also applicable in response to the rejection of claims 2 and 3. In view of the remarks made with regard to the rejection of claim 1, which are repeated, as if in full, herein, in response to the rejection of the above referred to claims, applicant submits that the reason for rejecting these claims has been overcome and the rejection can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

With regard to claims 4-6, these claims depend from independent claims 1-3, respectively, which have been shown to be allowable over the cited prior art.

Accordingly, claims 4-6 are also allowable by virtue of their dependence upon an allowable base claim. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

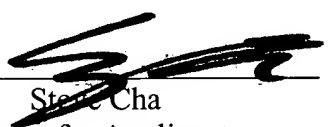
Although the last Office Action was made final, this amendment should be entered. No matter has been added to the claims that would require comparison with the prior art or any further review. Accordingly, pursuant to MPEP 714.13, applicant's amendments should only require a cursory review by the examiner. The amendment therefore should be entered without requiring a showing under 37 CFR 1.116(b).

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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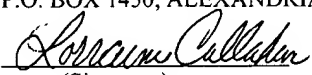
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